THE RED BALLOON

ALBERT LAMORISSE

THE RED BALLOON

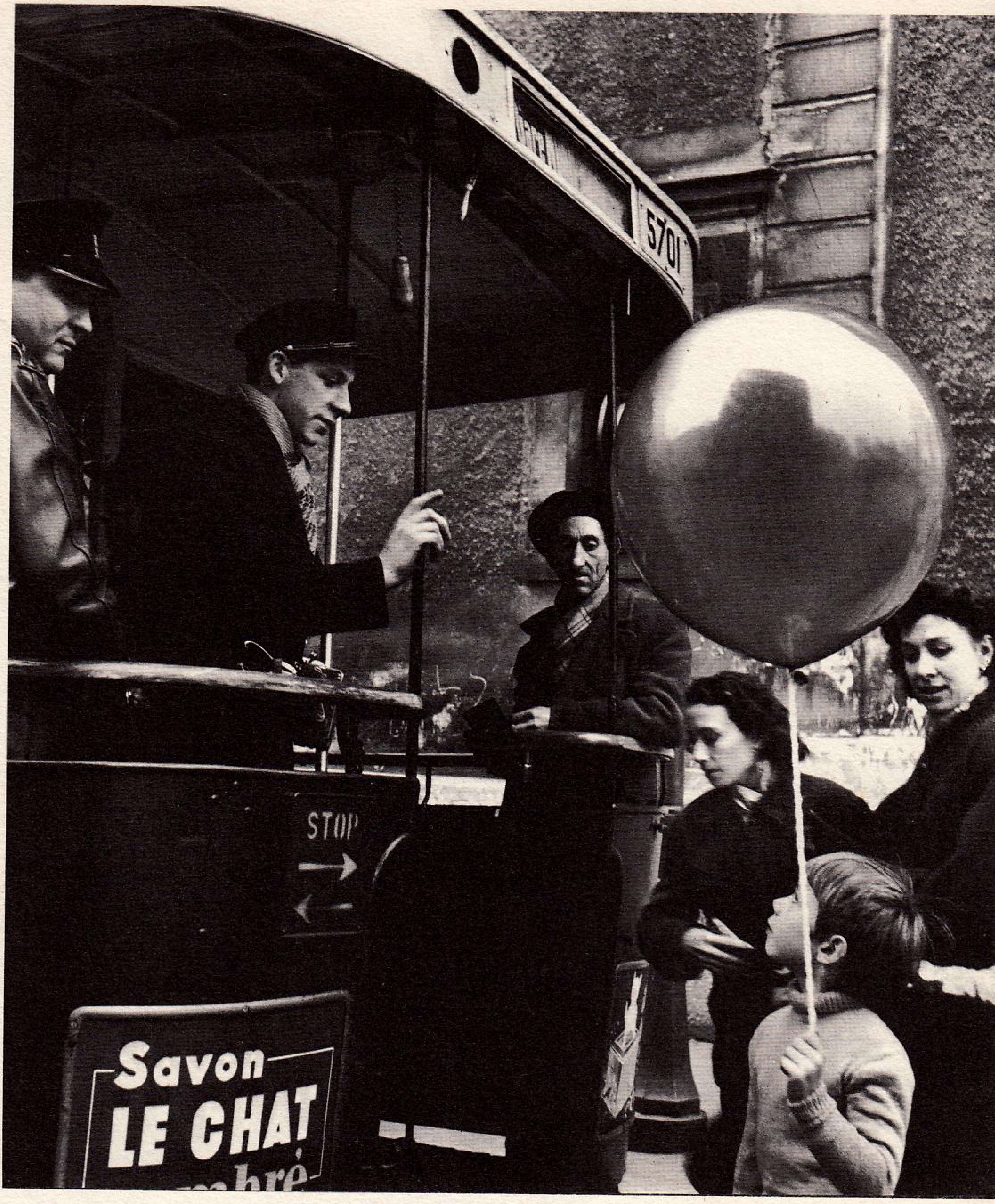
ALBERT LAMORISSE

Adapted by
Children's Choice®
Book Club

Once upon a time in Paris there lived a little bo whose name was Pascal. He had no brothers or sisters, and he was very sad and lonely at home.

Once he brought hom a lost cat, and some time later a stray puppy. But his mother said animals brought dirt into the house, and so Pascal was soon alone again.

The one day, on his way to school, he caught sight of a fine red balloon tied to a street lamp. Pasc laid his school bag on the ground. He climbed up th lamppost, untied the balloon, and ran off with to the bus stop.



But the conductor knew the rules. "No dogs," he said. "No large packages, no balloons."

People with dogs walk. People with packages take taxis. People with balloons leave them behind.

Pascal did not want to leave his balloon behind, so the conductor rang the signal bell, and the bus went on without him.

Pascal's school was a long way off, and when he finally reached the school door, it was already shut. To be late for school and with a balloon — that was unheard of! Pascal was very worried.

Then he had an idea. He left his balloon with the janitor, who was sweeping the yard. And since it was the first time that Pascal had ever been late, he was not punished.

When school was over, the janitor, who had kept the balloon in his room for Pascal, gave it back to him.

It had begun to rain, and Pascal had to walk home because of those silly rules about balloons on buses. But he didn't want his balloon to get wet.

There was an old gentleman just going by, and Pascal asked him whether he and the balloon could take shelter under his umbrella. So, from one umbrella to another, Pascal made his way home.

His mother was glad to see him finally come home. But since she had been very worried, she was angry when she found out that it was a balloon that had made Pascal late. She took the balloon, opened the window, and threw it out.

Now, usually when you let a balloon go, it flies away. But Pascal's balloon stayed outside the window, and the two of them looked at each other through the glass. Pascal was surprised that his balloon hadn't flown away, but not really as surprised as all that. Friends will do all kinds of things for you. If the friend happens to be a balloon, it doesn't fly away. So Pascal opened his window quietly, took his balloon back inside, and hid it in his room.

The next day, before he left for school, Pascal opened the window to let his balloon out and told it to come to him when he called. Then he picked up his school bag, kissed his mother good-by, and went downstairs.

When he reached the street he called: "Balloon! Balloon!" and the balloon came flying down to him. Then it began to follow Pascal—without being led by a string, just as if it were a dog following its master.

COURS D'ADULTES
LANGUES VIVANTES
Conseil de Révision
DE LA CLASSE 1956
DESSIN INDUSTRIEL
DESSIN D'ART
COURS D'ADULTES
COURS D'ADULTES
d'Enseignement Manuel
et Ménager Familial
DESSIN D'ART
DESSIN INDUSTRIEL
COURS D'ADULTES
d'Enseignement Technique
COURS PROFESSIONNELS
DES INDUSTRIES DE LA CHIMIE

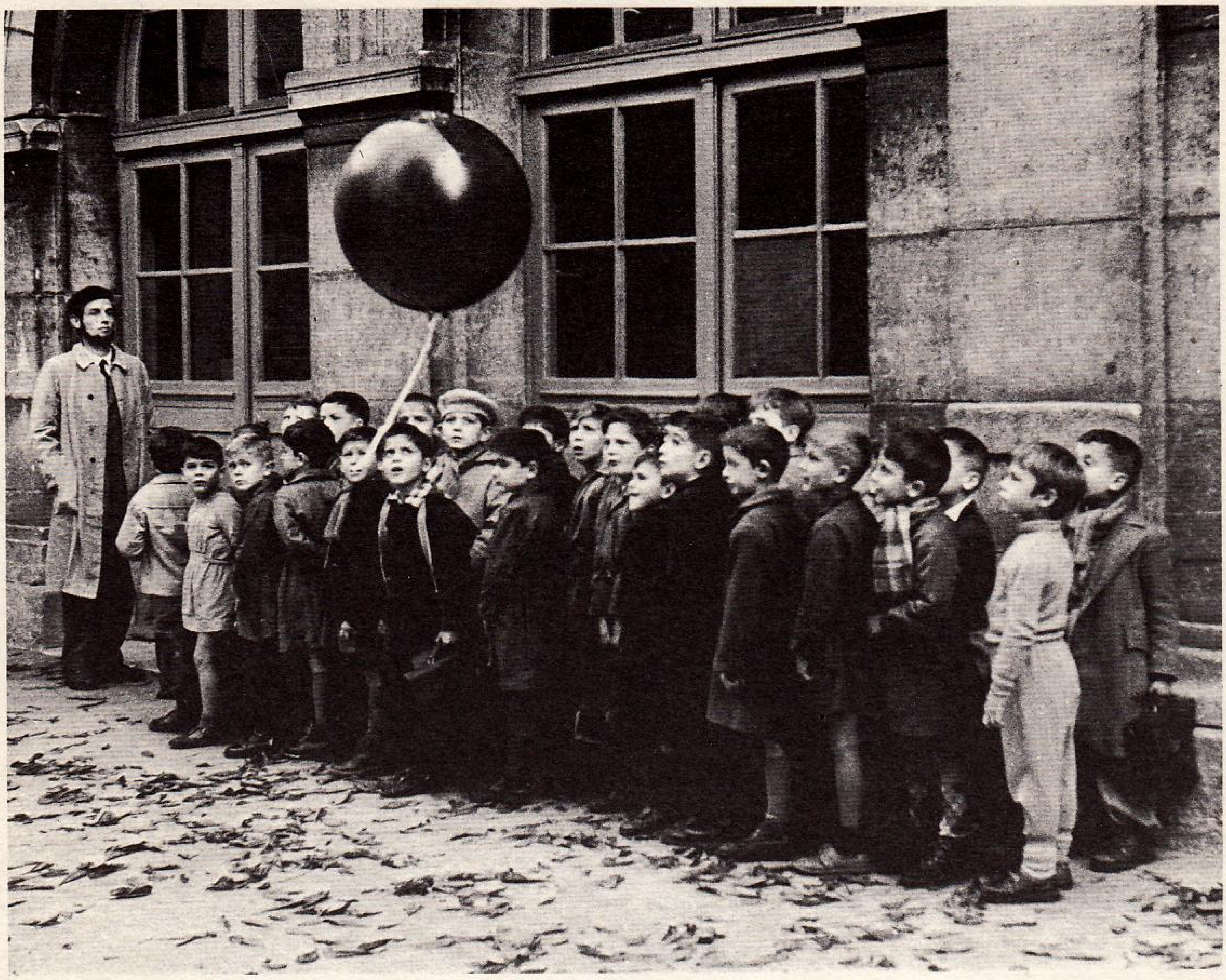
Gare MONTPARNASSE
5710

But, like a dog, it didn always do as it was told. When Pascal tried to catc it to cross the street, the balloon flew beyond his reach.

When they got to the bus stop, Pascal caught t string and said to the balloon: "Now, balloon, you follow me. Don't los sight of the bus!"

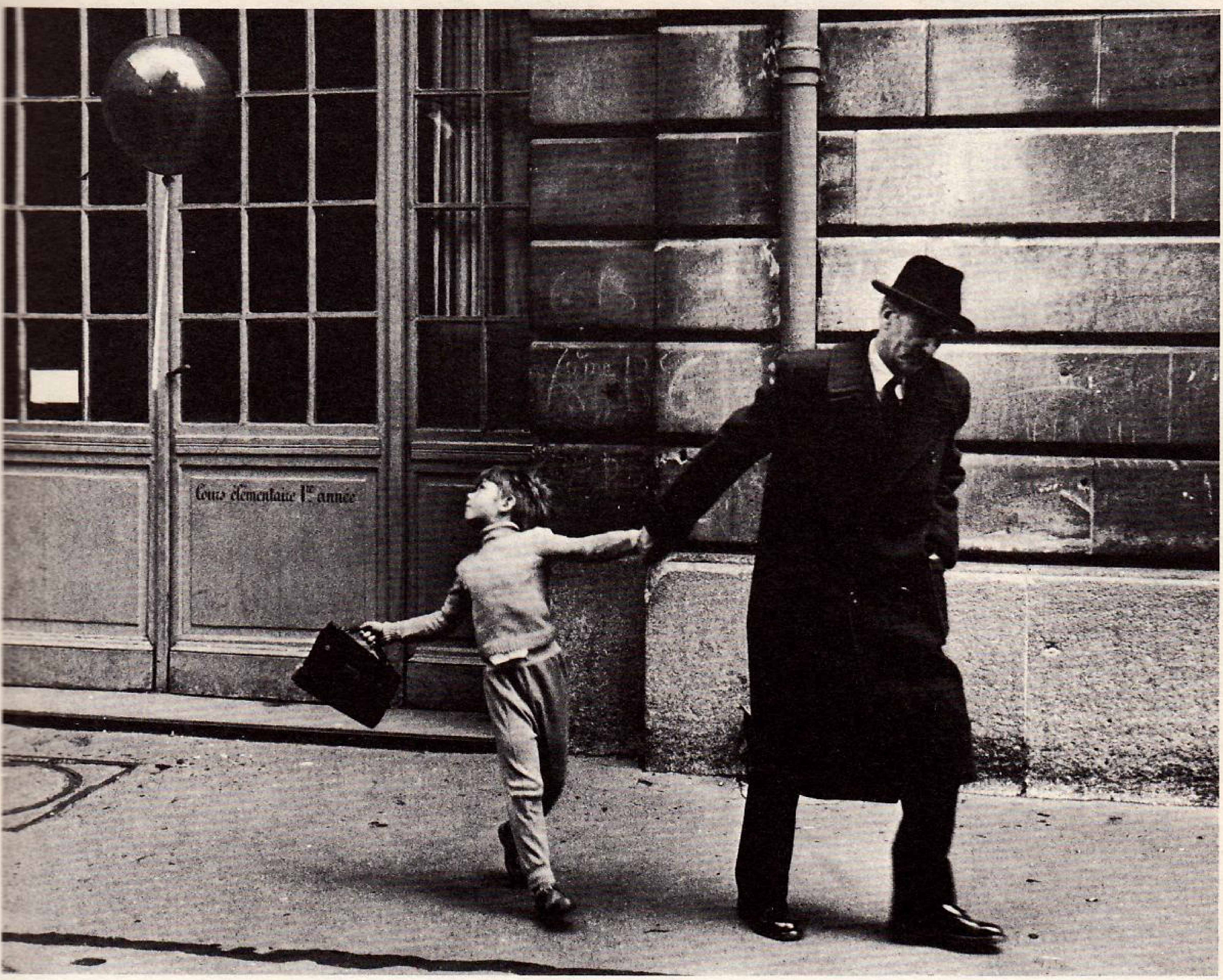
That was the stranges sight ever seen in a Paris street—a balloon flying along behind a bus.

VOLAILLES & C
ROTISS
G. Giraud
VOLAILLES G. Giraud GIBIE
Pte des LILAS
2843
MENILMONTANT-PORTE des LILAS
96
Chantelle
LA GAINE
Chantelle
LA GAINE



When they reached Pascal's school, the balloon still would not let Pascal catch it. But the bell was already ringing, and the door was just about to close, so Pascal had to hurry in alone. He was very worried.

But the balloon flew over the school wall and got in line behind the children. The teacher was very surprised to see this strange new pupil, and when the balloon tried to follow them into the classroom, the children made so much noise that the principal came along to see what was happening.


Cours élémentaire 1re année

The principal tried to catch the balloon to put it out the door. But he couldn't. So he took Pascal by the hand and marched him away.

The balloon left the classroom and followed them.

The principal locked the boy up inside his office. The balloon, he said to himself, would stay outside the door.

But that wasn't the balloon's idea at all. When it saw that the principal had put the key in his pocket, it sailed along behind him as he walked down the street.

All the people knew the principal very well, and when they saw him walking, past followed by a balloon they shook their heads and said: "The principal's playing a joke. It isn't right; a principal should be dignified, he shouldn't be playing like one of the boys in his school."

SIMON
MIROR
ontex
Sponte

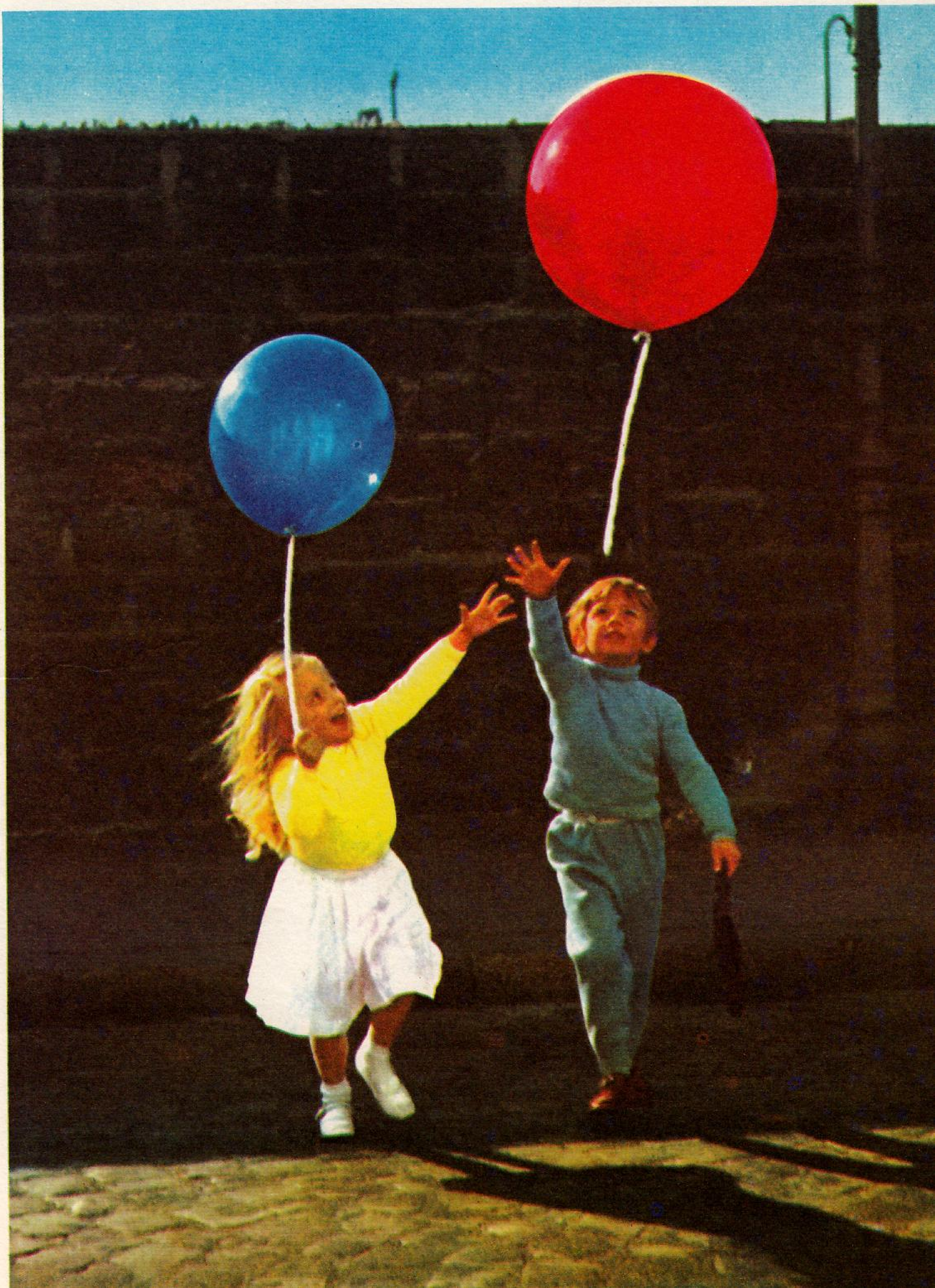
The poor man tried very hard to catch the balloon, but he couldn't, so there was nothing for him to do but put up with it. When the principal went back to school, the balloon was still behind him.

The principal was only too glad to let Pascal out of his office and to be rid of him and his balloon.

On the way home Pascal stopped to look at a picture outside a shop. It showed a little girl with a hoop. Pascal thought how nice it would be to have a friend like that little girl.

Just at that moment he met a real little girl, and in her hand she held the string . . . to a blue balloon!

Pascal wanted to be sure she noticed that his balloon was a magic one. But the balloon wouldn't be caught, and the little girl began to laugh.

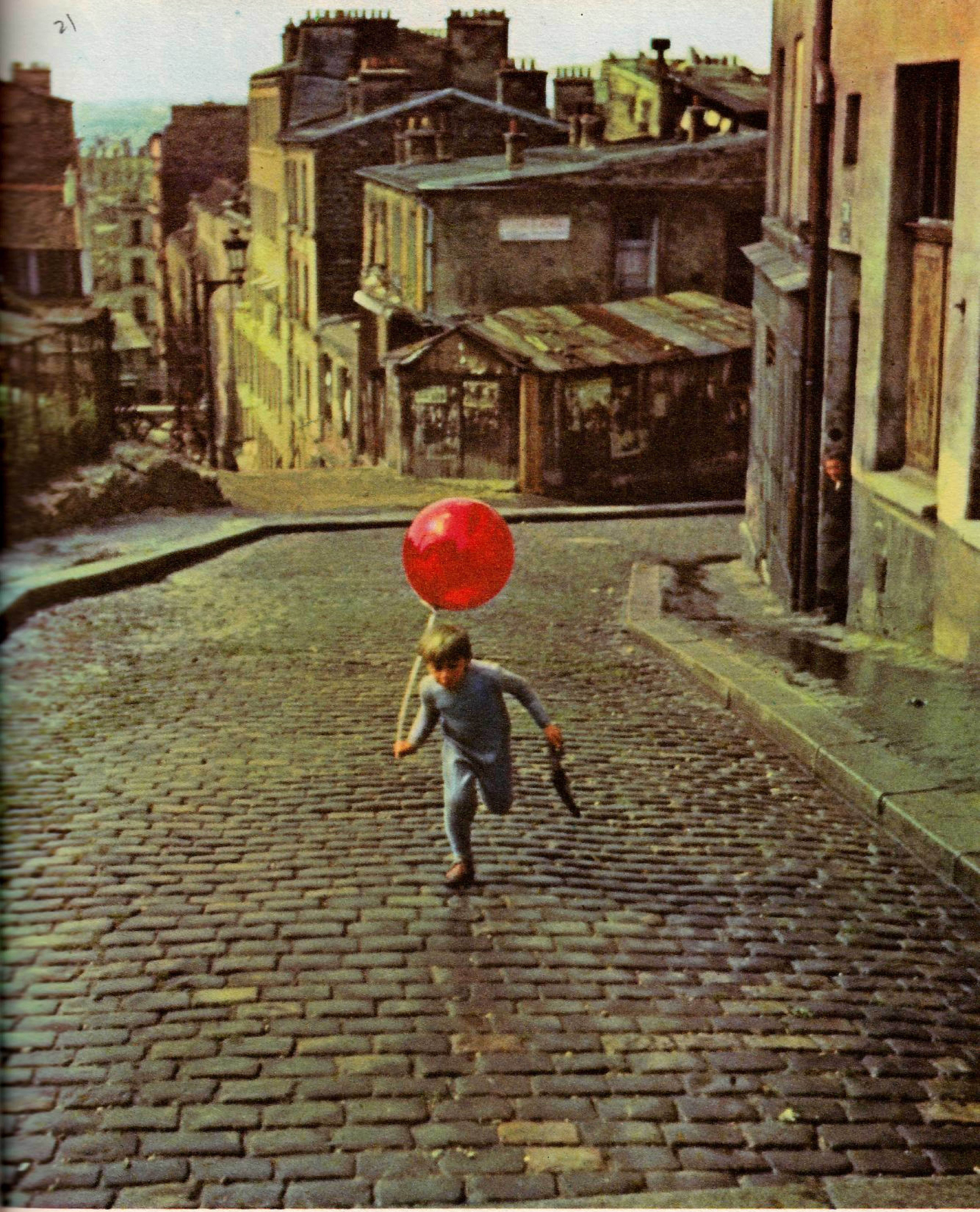


Pascal was angry. "What's the use of having a trained balloon if it won't do what you want?" he said to himself.

At that very moment some of the tough boys of the neighborhood came by. They tried to catch the balloon as it trailed along behind Pascal. But the balloon saw the danger. It flew to Pascal at once. He caught it and began to run, but more boys came to corner him from the other side.

So Pascal let go of his balloon, which immediately rose high into the sky.

While the boys were all looking up, Pascal ran between them to the top of the steps. From there he called his balloon, which came to him at once—to the great surprise of the boys in the gang.



So Pascal and his balloon got home without being caught.

The next day was Sunday. Pascal went to church, and although he told the balloon to stay at home, it did exactly as it pleased and followed him right into church!

Pascal had to leave in a hurry. His balloon certainly had no sense of what was proper. Pascal had plenty of worries!

All this worrying made him hungry, so he went into a bakery for some cake. Before he went inside he said to the balloon: "Now be good and wait for me. Don't go away."

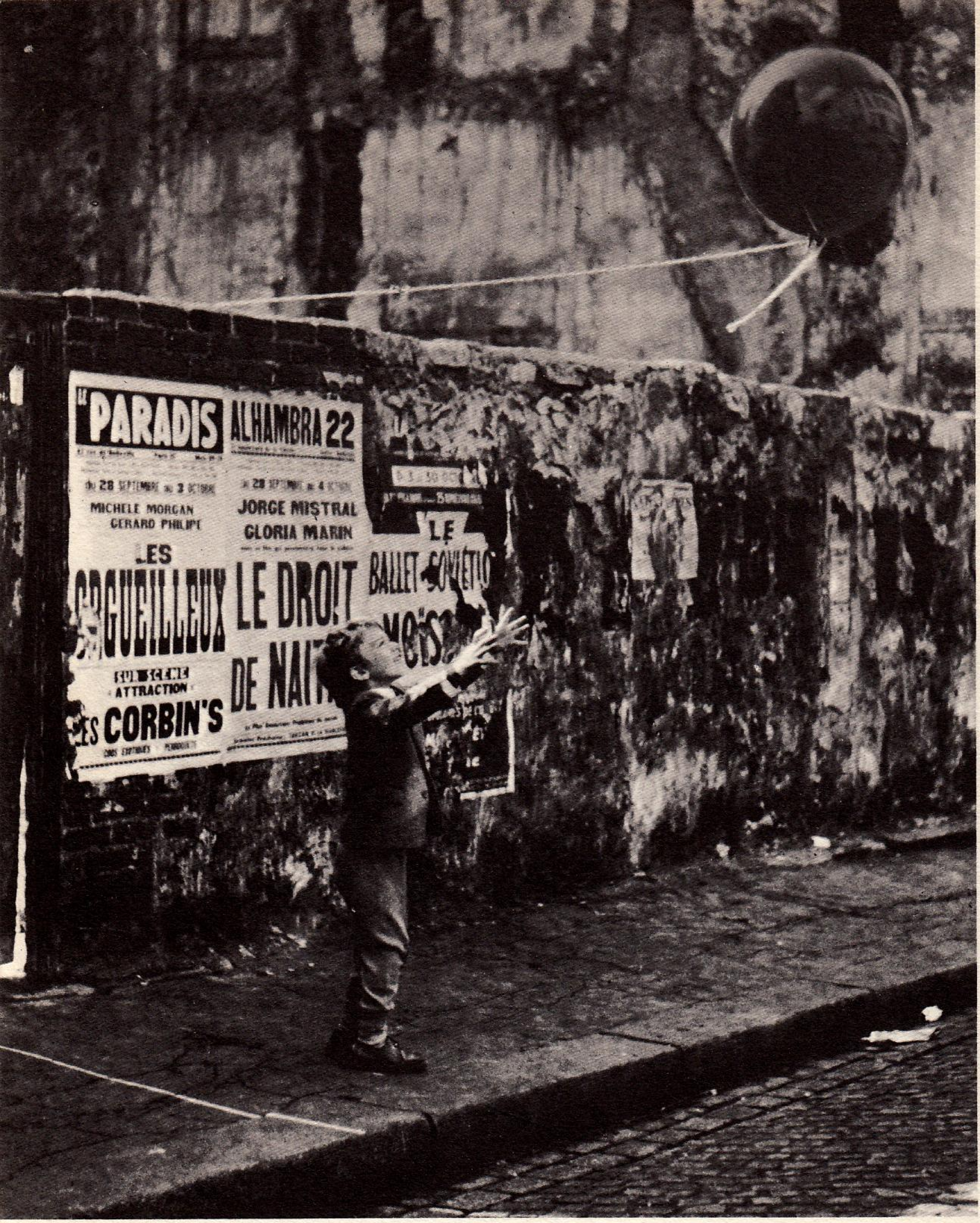
CODE DE LA ROUTE EN IMAGES
2
PAQUETS

The balloon was good and only went as far as the corner to warm itself in the sun. But that was too far. For the gang of boys who had tried to catch it the day before saw it—they crept up to it, jumped on it and carried it away.

When Pascal came out of the bakery, the balloon was gone! He ran in every direction, looking up at the sky. The balloon had disobeyed him again! It had gone off by itself! And although he called at the top of his voice, the balloon did not come back.

The gang had tied the balloon to a strong string, and they were trying to teach it tricks. "We could show this magic balloon in a circus," one of them said. He shook a stick at the balloon. "Come here or I'll burst you," he shouted.

PARADIS
ALHAMBRA 22
ALAN LADD
VIRGINIA MAYO
MAITRESSE DE FER
IMPERIALES
CHAILLOT
LE
BALLET SOVIETIQUE
MOISSEIEV


PARADIS
ALHAMBRA 22
du 28 SEPTEMBRE au 3 OCTOBRE
MICHELE MORGAN
GERARD PHILIPE
LES
ORGUEILLEUX
SUR SCENE
ATTRACTION
LES CORBIN'S
du 28 SEPTEMBRE au 4 OCTOBRE
JORGE MISTRAL
GLORIA MARIN
LE DROIT
DE NAI
LE
BALLET

Luckily, Pascal saw the balloon over the top of a wall, pulling at the end of its heavy string. He called to it.

As soon as it heard his voice, the balloon flew toward him. Quickly, Pascal untied the string and ran off with his balloon as fast as he could run.

Pascal ran through narrow alleys,
trying to lose the gang of boys.

The boys raced after him. They made so much noise that everyone in the neighborhood stopped to watch the chase. It looked as though Pascal had stolen the boys' balloon.

Pascal thought: "I'll hide in the crowd." But a red balloon can be seen anywhere, even in a crowd.

For a minute Pascal thought he had escaped the boys, and he looked around for a place to rest. But as he rounded a corner he bumped right into one of the gang. He ran back the way he had come, but there were more boys there. He was desperate—he ran up a side street which led to an empty lot. He thought he'd be safe there.

But suddenly, boys appeared from every direction, and Pascal was surrounded.

So he let go of his balloon.

The boys began throwing stones at the balloon.

"Fly away, balloon! Fly away!" Pascal cried. But the balloon would not leave its friend.

Then one of the stones hit the balloon, and it burst.

While Pascal was crying over his dead balloon, the strangest thing happened! Balloons from everywhere flew up into the air, forming a line high into the sky.

It was the revolt of all captive balloons!

RUE DES ENVIERGES
PATISS
FE MARTIN

And all the balloons of Paris came down to Pascal, dancing around him, twisting their strings into one strong one and lifting him up into the sky.

39

And that was how Pascal took a wonderful trip all around the world.

0-590-75800-4

CHILDREN'S
CHOICE®
BOOK CLUB
A Scholastic Book Service